

PH0169013

DATE

1920

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|--------------------------------|
| STATE: Massachusetts |
| COUNTY: Essex |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE 10/15/66 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Hammersmith

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
244 Central Street (Park Headquarters)
CITY OR TOWN:
Saugus
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE:
Massachusetts
CODE
25
COUNTY:
Essex
CODE
009

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comments Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No | | | |

4. AGENCY

National Park Service
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
North Atlantic Region
STREET AND NUMBER:
150 Causeway Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Boston
STATE:
Massachusetts 02114
CODE
025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Essex County Registry of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER:
32 Federal Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Salem
STATE:
Massachusetts 01970
CODE
025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

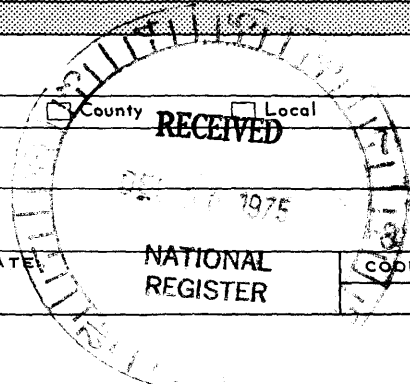
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:
NATIONAL REGISTER
CODE



| |
|--------------------------------|
| STATE: Massachusetts |
| COUNTY: Essex |
| ENTRY NUMBER |
| DATE |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☐ Good☐ Fair☒ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Saugus Iron Works located on the south bank of the Saugus River, is a careful-though partly conjectural-reconstruction based on archeologically excavated foundations and traces of the major portions of New England's earliest most sophisticated and integrated ironworking plant. The reconstruction completed in 1954, was deemed well done but due to an extended period of practically no maintenance, the buildings and their associated machinery are in a fair to very poor condition. The following structures and site comprise the Saugus Iron Works.

1. Ironmaster's House, Building No. 1 - Over the years, the Ironmaster's house was extensively altered by its various occupants. In 1915 the house was restored by Wallace Nutting to what he believed to have been its 17th century appearance. At the same time, however, a later addition to the house was enlarged and remodeled into a caretaker's wing.

The house consists of the original four rooms and entry hall, a rear lean-to which was added in either the late 17th century or the early 18th century, and the west wing which was enlarged in 1915. The ground floor of the original section is exhibited as a historic house with period furnishings. The remainder of the house, the lean-to, and the west wing are used for storage, administrative offices, and public rest rooms. Present condition of the house is good.

Significance: 2nd Order

Recommended treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: \$100,000

Photograph enclosed

2. Slag Pile, Building No. 16 - The slag pile is composed of original materials but is presumed smaller today than it should be. Weathering action and the fact that some of the material had been removed for fill has left the slag pile somewhat depleted. Despite its diminished condition, the slag pile remains one of the area's impressive attractions and prior to the reconstruction was the only surface evidence remaining from the original ironworks.

Significance: 2nd Order

Recommended treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: none

Photograph enclosed

3. Furnace, Building No. 8 - The reconstructed furnace, where iron ore was separated into cast iron and slag, consists of the stone furnace and its wooden charging bridge, a wooden casting shed, a pair of large leather bellows, and a 16' waterwheel with its shaft, and associated sluiceway and tail race. Present condition of the structure is fair.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

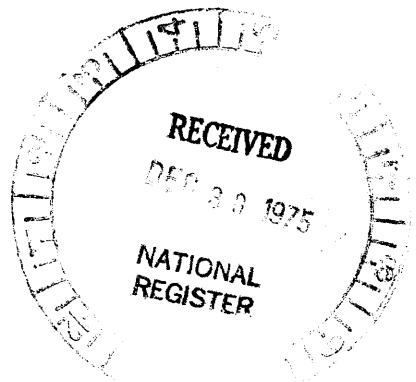
Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site was established to preserve the site of America's first sustained integrated iron works. An earlier ironworks at Falling Creek, Virginia, was destroyed during an Indian war before production could begin. A furnace and forge were built at Braintree, Massachusetts but the location of the furnace was poor and the operation was moved to Saugus by the ironmaster.

The Saugus Ironworks has been called the forerunner of American big business. It was an iron factory and could convert raw iron ore into finished cast and wrought iron products including rod stock for nails. The rolling and slitting mill was one of only about 15 in the world and the only one in the western hemisphere. More significant than the actual technology at the Saugus plant was that it served as a training ground for ironworkers. From Saugus they spread out to start new ironworks in New England and New Jersey.

The Saugus ironworks has also been called the first chapter in "America's book". Here were the first known instances of wage and price controls, military exemptions for specialized skills, of the assimilation of a "foreign" culture (the ironworkers) into a "settled" culture (the Puritans), and of geographical and vocational mobility.

The Ironmaster's house is an outstanding example of 17th century English architecture. It is the oldest non-Indian house in the National Park System.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

E.N. Hartley, IRONWORKS ON THE SAUGUS, University of Oklahoma Press, 1957
 "A Collection of Papers Relating to the Iron Works at Lynn and More Particularly to the Suit between Mr. John Gifford, the Agent for the Undertakers of the Iron Works, and the Inhabitants of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Dated 1650 et seq.," manuscript located at the Baker Library, Harvard Business School library, Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts
 "First Iron Works Gazette" an occasional paper published by the First Iron Works Association, Vol. 1 No. 1, March 1951 to Vol. 5 No. 2, Fall 1955.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | 42° 28' 10" | 71° 00' 37" | | | | |
| NE | 42° 28' 10" | 71° 00' 26" | | | | |
| SE | 42° 27' 54" | 71° 00' 26" | | | | |
| SW | 42° 27' 54" | 71° 00' 37" | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8.5 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|
| NAME AND TITLE: William Gray, park Manager; updated 2/75 NARO | | DATE: 8/17/72 |
| BUSINESS ADDRESS: Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 244 Central Street | | PHONE: |
| CITY OR TOWN: Saugus | STATE: Massachusetts | CODE: 01907 |

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☒ None

State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is ☒ National ☐ State

Federal Representative Signature Date
 Deputy Assistant Secretary
 Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| STATE Massachusetts | |
| COUNTY Essex | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |

(Number all entries)

7. (continued) Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site

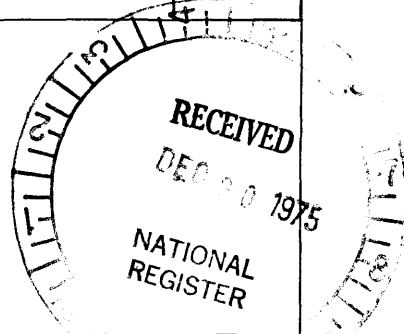
3. Furnace, Building No. 8 (continued)

Significance: **2nd** Order

Recommended treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above \$100,000

Photograph enclosed



4. Forge, Building No. 9 - In the forge, brittle cast iron was re-worked into malleable wrought iron. This reconstructed building has two refining fires (finery) and one heating fire (chafery), three sets of bellows, a 500 pound water powered hammer, four waterwheels and their associated sluiceways and tailraces.

Significance: **2nd** Order

Recommended treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: \$100,000

Photograph enclosed

5. Rolling and Slitting Mill, Building No. 10 - (Reconstructed)
Wrought iron was rolled into long flat bars and slit into rods in the rolling and slitting mill. The rods were the basic product for making hand-made nails, a valuable commodity for colonial Massachusetts Bay. The building has two 17' waterwheels and their associated sluiceways and tailraces, an internal gear system for operating one of the rollers, and a wood fired oven for heating up the iron prior to rolling and slitting.

Significance: **2nd** Order

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: \$100,000

Photograph enclosed

The machinery in all the above reconstructed buildings did operate, re-creating in large part the noise, dirt, and feel of working in a 17th century iron plant. Due to the current deterioration of the wood, most of the equipment is now unsafe to run.

6. The Fourth Ironworks Building to be reconstructed was the warehouse or ironhouse, Building No. 11. This small wooden structure was used to store products awaiting shipment to markets.

Significance: 2nd Order

Recommended Treatment: Preservation

Preliminary Cost Estimate for Above: \$1,000

Photograph enclosed